

Demystifying The Cult

Chunda: A Money Making Machine?

Another little gem in the arsenal of the "Misinformation Experts" is that they openly allege that the Ahmadis, such as myself, are obliged to pay various un-Islamic taxes and subscription fees which are in turn fraudulently and dishonestly pocketed by the administrators!

A good starting point here would be to ask "Where is the evidence of this?" I could easily, for example, say that everybody with the name "Henry" is fraudulent - please forgive me if you are called Henry - and that would be about as factual as the above. Again, yet another problem regarding the simple and, obviously, unimportant issue of "evidence."

Another clearly worrying aspect of this anti-Ahmadi discourse, is the lack of appreciation its architects have for Islamic history. The Holy Prophet (sall Allahu 'alayhi wa sallam) always admonished his followers to spend in the way of Almighty Allah. He would often make requests for money to be collected for any campaign or other need of the community. In addition to this, he would ask his followers to give money to those in need such as the "Ashab al-Suffah" and foreign visitors to Madinah or Makkah who had little to no provisions.

From amongst the companions of the Holy Prophet (sall Allahu 'alayhi wa sallam), we are blessed with Hadrat Abu Bakr (radi Allahu 'anhu) as the example "par-excellence" of a Muslim who gave in the way of Almighty Allah. As is famously known, he once gave his entire wealth for the cause of Almighty Allah. I suppose the Quraysh and the Jews of Madinah must have scoffed at this, wondering how the Muslims could be duped into giving so much to the "Money-making Machine" called Islam (astaghfir Allah min kulli thanbin wa atubu ilayh)! Sound familiar - hmmm??? It was always the example of the Companions (radi Allahu 'anhum) to not be content with simply fulfilling their obligatory financial commitments. Rather, their zeal to please Almighty Allah caused them to spend in His blessed way to such an extent that their own financial situation became akin to that of a needy person they were helping (see, for example, the financial sacrifices the Ansar made under the institution of "akhuwwah"). Much in the same way, they were never content with praying only five times a day and would offer so many supplementary prayers that they would sometimes suffer from physical ailments as a result.

Indeed, this noble practice was one of the highest illustrations of love for their fellow mankind. They were certainly not dupes, but engaged in attaining their

human share of Almighty Allah's attribute of al-Wudud (the Most Loving One). Their love for one another meant that in the blink of an eye they would forego their wealth and become poor in order to benefit others. No other community or people can match the example of the Companions in this regard. For they were taught at the very hand of the great al-Mu'allim (teacher), Hadrat Muhammad (sall Allahu 'alayhi wa sallam).

These are the very instructions of the noble Qur'an, teachings of Muhammad (sall Allahu 'alayhi wa sallam) and example of his Companions (radi Allahu 'anhum) which have spurred me on as an Ahmadi Muslim to imbibe within myself the spirit of financial sacrifice. My obligation as a Muslim to help my fellow brother is one so clearly established in Islam that there is no need to further discuss this matter. How sad is it then, that there are people, MUSLIMS, who would have me content with limiting my financial sacrifice to the absolute minimum expected of me. Shame on them!

Furthermore, The financial sacrifices of Ahmadi Muslims are almost always coupled with the free physical sacrifice of their time and expertise. Ahmadi doctors, teachers, plumbers, lawyers, electricians, engineers etc., all spend much of their personal time helping others and often dedicate a portion of their lives (i.e., 6 months – 1 year) to offer others their expertise free of charge. Indeed, many qualified Ahmadi Muslims dedicate their entire lives to the service of mankind for the sake of Almighty Allah. And yes, many non-Ahmadi Muslims similarly dedicate their time and money to helping others for the sake of Almighty Allah; but I am not standing here telling them they are dupes – I applaud them and say "Barak Allahu Feekum."

If the above sacrifices are objectionable to Islam, then I call upon the complainant to prove to me from the Qur'an and Sunnah that this is the case. It is my experience, as an Ahmadi Muslim, that great sacrifice is always rewarded manifestly by Almighty Allah, both spiritually and financially. There should be no surprise in this matter as Almighty Allah has clearly stated in the Holy Qur'an:

"Believe in Allah and His Messenger, and spend in the way of Allah out of that to which He has made you heirs. And those of you who believe and spend will have a great reward." (Q.57:8)

Those who are consumed by this world and the temptation of greed have lost sight of the true reality; they believe that their wealth is their own achievement. On this point, O Complainant of my meagre financial sacrifices as an Ahmadi Muslim, you must reflect upon the following guidance of Almighty Allah:

"And why is it that you spend not in the way of Allah, while to Allah belongs the heritage of the heavens and the earth?" (Q.57:11)

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